

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please withdraw amended Fig. 3 submitted February 13, 2004, which has been considered but not entered, in favor of original Fig. 3.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9, 10, 12-14 and 16 are pending herein. Claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 15 has been cancelled in favor of rewritten claims 9 and 16. Amended Fig. 3, submitted with the Amendment and RCE on February 13, 2004, is hereby withdrawn and original Fig. 3 is reinstated. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented.

This Amendment is proper under Rule 116, because it simply reorders the language of claims 9 and 16 to accommodate the language of cancelled claim 15. Thus, no new issues are presented by the claim amendments.

1. Examiner Kim is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during telephonic interviews on February 10, 2005, the substance of which is incorporated herein below.

2. The objection to Fig. 3 is noted, but deemed moot in view of the withdrawal of amended Fig. 3 (submitted February 13, 2004), which has been considered but not entered. Applicants respectfully request that, to the extent necessary, original Fig. 3 be reinstated, and that the above drawing objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The objection to claim 11, made in connection with amended Fig. 3 (now withdrawn) is noted, but deemed moot in view of the cancellation of claim 11 and for the reasons explained in section 2 above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

4. Claims 9, 10 and 15 were rejected under §102(b) over Yao. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 9 recites a liquid-drop spraying device including a liquid sump comprising a plurality of pressure chambers, and each pressure chamber includes an outlet and an inlet. The liquid-drop spraying device also includes, among other things a common fluid supply passage and a single vibration source for changing

Page 6 of 8

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

the volume of at least two of the plurality of pressure chambers of the liquid sump. The inlet of each pressure chamber is in communication with the common fluid supply passage via an inlet passage, and the vibration source comprises a single vibration transmission surface, the entirety of which is flat.

Claim 9 has been rewritten to better clarify the relationships among the individual features of the liquid-drop spraying device. During the second telephonic interview with applicants' representative (Nicole Buckner), Examiner Kim tentatively agreed that rewriting claim 9 in such a manner would define patentable subject matter over Yao.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that rewritten claim 9 defines patentable subject matter over Yao for the reasons previously set forth in the record and by virtue of the clarifying amendments above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

5. Claims 9-14 and 16 were rejected under §102(b) over Perduijn. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that this rejection is moot in view of rewritten claims 9 and 16 submitted above.

That is, independent claims 9 and 16 have each been rewritten to recite the features previously recited in claim 15, which was not rejected over Perduijn. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that rewritten independent claims 9 and 16 define patentable subject matter over Perduijn, and respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If Examiner Kim believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

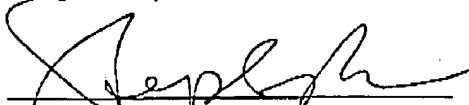
**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

February 18, 2005

Date

  
Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/NB/tlp

BURR & BROWN  
P.O. Box 7068  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191  
Telephone: (315) 233-8300  
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320